



## **Eighteen Students Inducted Into First Marion Co. ATC National Technical Honor Society**



**Photo:** **Front row** (l to r): Marion Co. Chamber of Commerce President Brad Lanham; Amy Simpson, information technology; Samantha Sutton, health sciences; Bobby Prewitt, industrial maintenance and construction technology; Jasma Cowherd, health sciences; Wesley Burkhead, information and construction technology; Casey Jones, machine tool technology and Marion Co. ATC Principal Laura Arnold. **Second row** (l to r): Austin Mattingly, construction technology; Brandon Baker, automotive technology; William George, information technology; Bridgette Colvin, health sciences; Stacy Tope, health sciences; Erin Clark, industrial maintenance and construction technology; and Dept. for Workforce Investment Commissioner Beth Smith. **Back row** (l to r): James E. Evans, information technology; Matt Livers, information technology; Hazal Korkut, information technology; Patrick Miles, machine tool technology; Dean Childers, information technology; Deputy Exec. Director OCTE Lewis Carter; and Marion Co. Superintendent Roger Marcum.

There was a unique and genuine show of community support during the first Marion Co. Area Technology Center (ATC) Chapter of the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) Induction Ceremony. The program was held on May 10, 2007, at the Marion Co. Office Bldg. where 18 students from six program areas proudly accepted their NTHS certificate and pin.

The NTHS is a national organization that acknowledges the recognition of outstanding student achievement in career and technical education. Its mission is to honor student achievement and leadership, promote educational excellence, and enhance career opportunities for the NTHS membership.

The Marion Co. NTHS ceremony provided an excellent opportunity for Principal Laura Arnold to market the value of technical education and skills training. Why? During this school year, a *Marion Co. Partners Marketing Committee* (comprised of the Marion Co. Bd. of Education, Industrial Foundation, Chamber of Commerce, and business and industry representatives) was created to increase the visibility, enhance the public image, and affect a positive change of perception of career and technical education (CTE) programs throughout the community. The overall success of the committee is becoming more apparent with each accomplishment and the NTHS ceremony underscored the fact that CTE is a high level priority in Marion Co. More importantly, 18 young men and women heard positive comments from community, state, economic development and education leaders promoting the value of CTE in education and economic growth. It was a stunning and unparalleled display of unity in support of students who are pursuing technical education and skills training.

Marion Co. ATC Principal Laura Arnold welcomed an audience of approximately 90 individuals by talking about the positive activities taking place within her school and throughout the community to promote CTE. Her heralding of the NTHS program was part of a planned process of strategic activities to help everyone become engaged in and understand the fundamental worth of CTE programs.

**“We are very excited about the opportunity to implement a NTHS in our school and we have a great group of students who are enrolled in our programs. This is our opportunity to recognize their excellent achievements,” said Arnold.**

**When discussion of creating a Marion Co. Chapter was first initiated, Lebanon/Marion Co. Chamber of Commerce Education Director Dawna Kelch seized the opportunity to embrace the program and worked with businesses and industries across the area to sponsor the first ceremony.**

**“The Lebanon/Marion Co. Chamber of Commerce has worked hard to promote the NTHS program and actively involved the community by asking for local sponsors.**

**Donna Kelch has been invaluable in helping us create a first class NTHS chapter and providing a worthy ceremony for our students. The community support for the NTHS has been refreshing and rewarding,” says Arnold. “It is exciting for me and my teachers to work in a community that values CTE and understands how important technical training is to the future economic growth and development of our area.”**

**Department for Workforce Investment Commissioner Beth Smith was invited to serve as the keynote speaker. To her credit, the commissioner praised the Marion Co. partners for their determination and dedication. She accentuated the positive outcomes and complimented the forward thinking that has taken place in Marion Co.**



**Photo above: As a token of the school's appreciation, Arnold (left) presents Commissioner Smith (right) with a brass paper weight machined by a Marion Co. ATC student.**



“Here in Marion Co. and all over the commonwealth, technical education is becoming more and more the NEW Option. With all the efforts that have taken place during the school year to *raise awareness of career and technical education programs being offered in this community*, this program is one way to spread the good news about our career and technical education students; who they are, what programs they are taking, and, that they have reached a level of distinction by being accepted into this NTHS,” Smith said. “Marion Co. is surely the poster child in how a community can embrace and support our area technology centers. It's a win-win for all involved,”

Marion Co. Public Schools Superintendent Roger Marcum has also been a visible and supportive leader in cultivating a NEW option for CTE students in his district. From the onset, his endorsement of the marketing initiative and NTHS has been unwavering. At the same time, his ability to work with all of the partners in developing a successful plan to positively promote CTE has created a benchmark for other superintendents to follow.



Above (l to r): Marion Co. Board of Education member Bernard Miles; Smith and Marion Co. Public Schools Superintendent Roger Marcum.

“All the good things happening in our county are because everyone is working as a team – whether at the area technology center or at the high school,” says Marion Co. Bd. of Education member Bernard Miles. “I think more kids will get the technical education and skills training they need because we all understand the need - it’s all for the kids.”

“I believe that this particular arrangement of education is something that is needed in this area as well as a lot of other developing and improving economies,” says Marion Co. Bd. of Education member Joe Mattingly. “I truly believe that education in the field of technical training has come a long way in this county and has a long way to go in relation to what we can do as a unified group of people. We can enhance the field of technical training into another range of possibilities in robotics and hydraulics – things that industry needs, as well as health services. The possibilities are unlimited. I look forward to making this one of the premier counties, working with groups in Washington and Marion counties to get a top-notch facility here in Marion Co.”

“We are proud of the 18 Marion Co. and Washington Co. students who were inducted as charter members of the Marion Co. ATC National Technical Honor Society. This was a wonderful culminating event for a school year of unprecedented improvement in career and technical education. It was a pleasure to see students, parents, MCATC instructors, and MCATC Principal Laura Arnold joined together with community members and leaders to celebrate student achievement and the significant improvement in the perception of career and technical education in Marion Co.,” says Marcum. “We were honored to have Kentucky Department for Workforce Investment Commissioner Beth Smith as our featured speaker. We were also pleased to have with us our other state partners from the Office of Career and Technical Education including Mr. Lewis Carter, Ms. Mary Stratton and Mrs. Fran Dundon, who have contributed significantly to our progress. Marion County Public Schools and the Marion County community are excited about the future of the MCATC! Career and technical education will be a very positive influence on the quality of life and economic prosperity of our community.”



Photo above:  
Marion Co. Public Schools  
Superintendent Roger Marcum  
addresses the audience during  
the first Marion Co. ATC Chapter  
of the National Technical Honor  
Society Induction Ceremony.



(l to r): Lebanon/Marion Co. Ind. Foundation Exec. Dir. Tom Lund and Washington Co. Economic Development Exec. Dir. Hal B. Goode

Photos below (l): Marion Co. Judge Exec. John Mattingly; (r): Lebanon Mayor Gary Crenshaw



Other valued members of the community who provided remarks during the ceremony included Lebanon/Marion Co. Ind. Foundation Exec. Dir. Tom Lund; Washington Co. Econ. Dev. Exec. Dir. Hal B. Goode; Marion Co. Judge Exec. John G. Mattingly; and Mayor Gary Crenshaw, City of Lebanon.

“The Marion Co. Industrial Foundation is very proud to support a program such as this. Having the Marion Co. NTHS established will complement the standards of our Marion Co. ATC,” says Lund. “These students are the future leaders in manufacturing. As technology continues to change in manufacturing, we are confident that the level of education at the MCATC will be one step ahead of the global demands. Having a MCATC National Technical Honor Society is important to us.”

“When you are in economic development, you see that technical education pays. I think we all see the importance of what is taking place,” said Goode. “I commend the school board here and also Larry Graves in Washington Co. for taking steps to work with Laura Arnold. We appreciate being involved and seeing our areas working to provide what the manufacturing and job community is looking for.”

“CTE is important, just like all education, to our community for economic development. With all the growth that Marion Co. has seen in our industrial manufacturing jobs, the demand is there and the workforce has got to be trained in those specific areas of technical education so we can continue moving forward as a community,” says Mattingly. “It’s necessary for our future survival and our growth and success – And, technical education is the key!”

Mayor Crenshaw has this to say regarding CTE, “My oldest son graduated from a technical school. He now has an occupation and an education that he will be able to go anywhere in the US and command top dollar as a tool and die remanufacturer – so, I am a firm believer in technical education.”



## **Marion Co. ATC Chapter of the NTHS Induction Ceremony**

As each of the 18 students was presented to the audience, they received their NTHS certificate and pin from their respective instructor. They then proceeded through a line to meet OCTE Deputy Executive Director Lewis Carter, Commissioner Beth Smith and Superintendent Roger Marcum on a more personal level. Students also received a KY Tech pin and blue ribbon. As each student stopped to shake the hand of Superintendent Marcum, he asked to hear their plans for post-secondary education in a technical field.

When all of the students had been inducted, Arnold surprised everyone with a special announcement - the Office of Economic Development had voted to provide a \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior who plans to continue into postsecondary technical education with a focus in manufacturing.

**Commissioner Beth Smith congratulates  
IT Student Dean Childers, as Deputy  
Lewis Carter looks on.**



**Above: Welding  
Instructor Steve McDaniel  
shakes the hand of Health  
Sciences Student Jasma  
Cowherd.**



**Above: CAD Instructor Paul  
Spalding shakes the hand of  
Machine Tool Technology  
Student Casey Jones.**

**The Marion Co. ATC NTHS committee has established the following criteria for a student to become inducted into the NTHS:**



- Must be a Junior or Senior***
- Must have a Cumulative GPA of 3.0***
- Must have a 3.25 or higher ATC GPA***
- Must have a 90% attendance rate***
- Must have one teacher recommendation***



**Construction Tech. Student Austin Mattingly**

**Photo below:** Superintendent Marcum congratulates IT Student Amy Simpson on her achievement as Commissioner Beth Smith and Deputy Lewis Carter watch.



**Photo above:** Health Sciences Student Bridgette Colvin is congratulated by Marcum.

**Photo at left:** IT Student James Evans accepts certificate from Instructor Chris Sublett for Anita Akridge.

**"It's a privilege to be a part of this kick-start group**

**and I'm really glad of how things have changed over the years. Being a student in computers and technology was once geeky, but now students can be recognized for their talents and skills," says James.**

**"I'm very proud to be here tonight as part of this charter group for the national technical honor society," says James' mom Diane Evans**

**"My teacher is Mrs. Anita Akridge and she has taught me a lot about computers. I thank her for that. I'm also honored and feel very privileged to be part of the first national technical honor society in Marion Co." says Amy Simpson.**

**"I think this is great, it's fantastic that there is something like this for our kids," says Amy's mom Sheila.**



## **Marion Co. ATC NTHS Honorary Membership**

As part of the overall ceremony, Arnold announced two individuals and three businesses that had been selected into honorary membership in the Marion Co. ATC Chapter of the NTHS. She presented a certificate to Mr. Brad Lanham, president of the Marion Co. Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Tom Lund, executive director of the Marion Co. Office of Economic Development; and Mr. Hal B. Goode, Springfield/Washington Co. Economic Development Authority; Dawna Kelch, Marion Co. Chamber of Commerce Education Committee Chairman and Angell-Demmel North America Vice President of Operations; and Fran Dundon, Education Cabinet/Office of Career and Technical Education.

***“Technical Education – The NEW Option.***  
What a great slogan to represent the technical education and skills training opportunities available at the Marion Co. ATC and what it means for our community,” says Kelch. “I’m privileged to have been selected as an honorary member in the Marion Co. NTHS. Not only can I speak for myself, but as chairman of the Chamber’s Education Committee, we are all proud to be associated with such an outstanding staff of individuals who have the responsibility of teaching our students the skills they need to succeed in the workplace. As part of our 2007 initiatives, the Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to supporting the Marion Co. ATC Chapter of the NTHS and many other endeavors that are currently underway in the Marion Co. ATC and Marion County Public Schools.”



Photo above: Laura Arnold presents Dawna Kelch with a certificate of honorary membership in the Marion Co. ATC Chapter of the National Technical Honor Society.

## Sponsorship

Photo at right: Laura Arnold accepts a check from Lebanon/Marion Co. Chamber of Commerce President Brad Lanham. Education Chairman Dawna Kelch originally asked the Chamber to sponsor the Marion Co. ATC Chapter of the NTHS. The request was wholeheartedly accepted by Chamber members and a total of \$2,225. was raised to support the effort.

“On behalf of the Chamber, we are very pleased to be sponsors of this event and we want to congratulate each of the 18 students who met the criteria to be inducted as a member of the NTHS,” said Lanham. “I’d like to commend Dawna Kelch on our Education Committee for all of her hard work on this program and also Mr. Marcum for going above and beyond in being committed to this effort. The Chamber is thankful to Laura and her staff for their commitment to the school and students.”



Photo at left (front row): Marion Co. Principal Laura Arnold, Commissioner Beth Smith, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kathy Browning; Chamber Education Committee Chairman Dawna Kelch. Back Row: Lebanon/Marion Co. Industrial Foundation Exec. Director Tom Lund and Chamber of Commerce President Brad Lanham.



**Photo above: Mr. Dennis Brown  
TG Kentucky LLC  
General Manager  
General Administration Division**

**“I’m very thankful to be a part of this program because I know that it will help the future of Marion Co. by offering our students an opportunity to get the support that they need. The area technology center, this national technical honor society and all of the other marketing initiatives that are currently taking place in Marion Co. have helped people understand the value of technical education and skills training and its important link to economic development.”**

**Dennis Brown**

**To their credit, Dennis Brown and TG Kentucky LLC are great supporters of the Marion Co. Area Technology Center. Mr. Brown is a member of the Marion Co. Partners Marketing Committee and has been instrumental in developing the ATC’s marketing plan.**





## KY Tech Marion Co. ATC Instructors

Front row: Paul Spalding, computer aided drafting; Danny Taylor, construction technology; and Doug Shive, industrial maintenance technology. Back row: Chris Sublett, machine tool technology; Steve McDaniel, welding; and David Gerhardt, automotive technology. Not pictured: IT Instructor Anita Akridge and Health Sciences Instructor Mary Jo Clark.

Photo at below: Instructor Doug Shive and Instructor Chris Sublett go over the program.

“Being accepted as a member of the Marion Co. NTHS is something that each student can take great pride in accomplishing. It also allows them to be able to positively promote their achievement during and after high school as they enter postsecondary education or the workforce,” says Welding Instructor Steve McDaniel. “As a member of the NTHS, students from all of our program areas will hold a leadership role within the area technology center that did not previously exist. We are proud of our students and the benefits they will receive as a result of this program.”

“Not only does the NTHS provide our students with deserving recognition of their grade point average, but I like the idea that this program also emphasizes attendance. In the workplace, attendance is critical and its part of the work ethic that we teach in our classrooms,” says Machine Tool Technology Instructor Chris Sublett. “I’m proud of my students for their accomplishment and have high expectations for them to succeed.”

“The NTHS will allow MCATC to showcase the fact that our programs do attract quality students that are top in their class,” says Information Technology Instructor Anita Akridge. “Their involvement in community events will show society that they not only have a lot to contribute now but will become the community leaders of the future.”





**Mary Stratton and Laura Arnold tend to final details of program.**

**“This program was made possible because of the dedication of those within this community who believe in the importance of career and technical education. The real beneficiaries are the students who have met the criteria to be accepted in the Marion Co. ATC National Technical Honor Society,” says KY Tech Area Supervisor Mary Stratton. “I’m so proud of the efforts of everyone involved in this whole endeavor and what they mean for our students. In today’s society, it takes these types of coordinated efforts to help our career and technical education students become the individuals they are capable of becoming and it takes a dedicated staff to help ensure that type of success.”**



**KY Tech Area Supervisor Mary Stratton**

**Photo at right: Commissioner Beth Smith and OCTE Deputy Executive Director Lewis D. Carter**

**“This type of program provides career and technical education students with the recognition they deserve and I am impressed with the commitment that this staff has for their students and what they have achieved,” says Carter. “At the same time, it is refreshing to see how the hard work and dedication of the Marion Co. Board of Education, Chamber of Commerce, and Industrial Foundation have resulted in this outstanding event for students.”**







And, let's remember that parents and guardians are important in the overall growth and development of the students who attend our area technology centers. Here's a salute to the parents!



Good News Story #206  
May 14, 2007



Marion Co. ATC Administrative Secretary Teresa Preston and Automotive Technology Instructor David Gerhardt prepare the registration table.  
"Teresa is an outstanding asset in our Marion Co. ATC office and we all appreciate what she does," says Principal Laura Arnold.

